

# AMERICAN OBSERVER

News and Issues—With Pros and Cons

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DOWNTOWN IN SÃO PAULO, industrial center which has grown from a population of 579,000 in 1920 to over 3,000,000—and is now Brazil's biggest city

## Latin America Is Rapidly Changing Area

Southern Lands Join United States in Observing Pan American Day

*In observance of Pan American Day, April 14, this issue of the AMERICAN OBSERVER and its companion publication, the WEEKLY NEWS REVIEW, is largely devoted to Latin America. Consequently, many regular features are omitted.*

**W**HAT is Latin America like? Ask a number of people about the sprawling region stretching from Texas southward to Cape Horn at South America's lower tip, and you will probably get a variety of answers.

"Latin America is where revolutions are always taking place," says a man whose knowledge of the region is derived from newspaper headlines.

"That's where we get coffee and bananas," remarks the buyer for a grocery-store chain. "Canned beef, too."

"Latin America? A region of beau-

tiful scenery, fine beaches, and modern cities," exclaims a young lady recently returned from a vacation cruise to South America with a 3-day stopover at Rio de Janeiro.

"It's a primitive place with poverty-stricken people living the same way their ancestors did," says a member of an oil-exploration party that has been tramping the backlands of Latin America for 6 weeks.

As different as these impressions are, there is some basis of fact for each of them. Latin America is a region where variety and contrast are everywhere apparent. Moreover, as the wide range of comments suggests, it is an area about which a great many U. S. citizens have only hazy and incomplete information.

**Hemisphere republics.** On the 14th of April each year, special attention

is focused on the lands to the south. The date this year marks the 68th anniversary of the occasion when the peoples of the United States and Latin America banded together for peace and security.

The successor to that early group is today's Organization of American States (OAS) with headquarters in Washington, D. C. Its member countries are the 20 republics of Latin America plus the United States.

Together, the OAS countries make up more than 75% of the land area of the Western Hemisphere. (Canada does not belong to OAS, nor do territories linked with outside governments. Among these latter regions are British and French Guiana, Dutch-controlled Surinam, British Honduras, and various islands including the newly formed West Indies federation. The latter

will become completely independent of Britain, its mother country, within a few years.)

In area, the Latin American republics are about 2½ times as big as the United States. The population of 184,000,000 in these 20 lands to the south includes Indians, people of European ancestry, Negroes, and persons of mixed descent.

Though each of these nations is a republic, political conditions vary a great deal from one country to another. While some Latin American governments are stable, others are shaky.

**Political unrest.** Nowhere are conditions more troubled today than in the Latin American nation of Cuba, only 150 miles from Florida. Rebels under the leadership of Fidel Castro are try-

(Continued on page 2)





BOY WITH PET in Uruguay, one of South America's leading farming lands

## Latin America

(Continued from page 1)

ing to upset the government of President Fulgencio Batista.

For most of the time during the past 20 years, Batista has been Cuba's top man. Much opposition to his rule comes from students and other young people who charge that he has suppressed liberty and democracy.

Batista's supporters claim that he has given Cuba good government. They contend that strong measures have been necessary to keep order in the island nation.

The revolt has now gone on for about 15 months. Violence has been spreading in recent weeks. As this paper went to press, there were signs that the revolt was fast coming to a climax.

Cuba is not the only land to the south that has seen political turmoil over the past year or so. Last spring, a revolution erupted in Colombia, and only 3 months ago the harsh dictatorship of Marcos Pérez Jiménez was overthrown in Venezuela.

Haiti underwent a lengthy crisis last year over presidential succession. Argentina is still trying to establish a democratic government after a long period under dictator Juan Perón, deposed in 1955. The Dominican Republic is an absolute dictatorship under General Rafael Trujillo (whose brother Héctor serves as President). General Alfredo Stroessner rules Paraguay with an iron hand.

Why is there so much political turmoil in Latin America? Why aren't more of these governments stable? A number of factors are involved.

**Feudal ways.** The Spaniards and Portuguese, who colonized Latin America during the 16th and 17th centuries, brought with them certain

feudal ideas that were still in vogue in Europe. Under feudalism, the land and government were in the hands of a small, powerful ruling class. The masses of people worked as laborers on the big estates with little chance of bettering themselves. The middle class was almost nonexistent.

Thus, in Latin American countries, the land and the government came to be controlled by a small group. Even today, the best farm land in Argentina is held by a small number of families. In Chile, one-half of 1% of the people own 60% of the country's cropland.

**One-man rule.** An offshoot of the feudal system is the tradition of one-man rule that has long plagued Latin America. Frequently, political bosses have seized power by force of arms, and have then entrenched themselves in office.

Many of these "strong men" have been military leaders. A few have turned out to be good rulers, but a large number have lacked qualifications for holding office. They have often ruled like dictators, and have accumulated great fortunes through abuse of their powers.

**Poverty and ignorance.** Stable, democratic governments require a literate population with good living standards. But these conditions do not prevail in most Latin American countries.

Poverty is widespread throughout the region. Average annual income ranges from \$70 in Haiti to \$600 in Venezuela. (Per capita income in the United States, figured on the same basis, is \$2,084.)

In rural areas, where slightly more than half of the Latin Americans live, millions eke out a hand-to-mouth existence. Even in such up-to-date cities as Rio de Janeiro and Mexico City with their glittering modern buildings, there are large sections of squalid

shacks that serve as dwellings for the poor.

With poverty so widespread, it is natural that many regions lack adequate schools. More than half the people cannot read or write in Bolivia, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, and Venezuela. In some of these lands, probably not more than 1 youth out of 5 attends school.

The poor and the uneducated are easily swayed by ambitious politicians who are free with promises (that are seldom carried out). It is by skillful use of these underprivileged groups that dictators often achieve and hold power.

**Unbalanced economies.** Another factor contributing to political instability is the lopsided economy found in many Latin American lands. These countries rely too largely on one crop or product for prosperity.

Cuba, for example, depends largely on sugar for its economic well-being. Coffee is the big crop in Colombia. The Central American lands depend mostly on bananas and coffee. Petroleum is the principal money earner for Venezuela.

By not having more varied agricultural and industrial systems, our southern neighbors have suffered severely in the past when they had crop failures or when the world demand for the products in which they specialized fell off, causing prices to drop. They have had crippling economic depressions which, in turn, have produced political unrest.

**Period of change.** To understand Latin America, it is necessary to know about these deep-seated ills. But it is equally necessary to know that the lands to the south have been going through a period of change in recent years. Leaders in many countries are vigorously tackling the weaknesses that have so long held their nations back.

For example, the tradition of one-man rule is losing ground today. Uruguay, Costa Rica, and Mexico have achieved a reputation for stable, democratic government.

Even several recent revolutions have—by overthrowing dictators—opened the way for more democratic rule. Colombia, Venezuela, and Argentina are being run by the people to a greater extent today than they were a short time ago.

In only 3 countries in Latin America

is there complete government censorship of the press today. These nations are the Dominican Republic, Paraguay, and Cuba. This is an improved record over a few years ago when several other countries lacked freedom of the press.

The educational picture is improving, too. Mexico is one land in which substantial gains are being made in this respect. Throughout most of Latin America, a slow—but marked—drop in illiteracy figures is taking place.

Steps have been taken in a number of countries to make land available to small farmers. Guatemala, Bolivia, and Mexico have been among the leaders in land reform measures. Moreover, farmers are being encouraged to grow a greater variety of crops.

**Expansion of industry.** One of the most significant developments taking place in Latin America is the growth of industry.

Argentina has long been Latin America's most industrialized nation. More than half of that country's wage earners are employed in meat-packing plants, or factories that make textiles, chemicals, autos, and a great variety of other items.

Brazil and Mexico also have many thriving industries. In São Paulo, the center of Brazilian manufacturing, there are flour mills, shoe factories, textile plants, meat-packing concerns, and chemical factories. Among Mexico's manufactured goods are electric appliances, radios, auto tires, and dozens of other products.

Venezuela, Colombia, and Peru have also been making dramatic industrial gains. Today a number of Latin American lands have their own steel mills.

Extensive mineral resources furnish a basis for further industrial growth. Chile is rich in nitrates (used in explosives and fertilizers). Brazil and Venezuela have coal, gold, and iron. Tin, copper, and manganese are found in various lands.

Industry and diversified agriculture are providing a "cushion" to the unbalanced economies of many of these nations. No longer do they need to be so completely dependent on a single product. By promoting economic stability, industrialization is helping to eliminate one of the main causes of political upheavals.

The growth of factories is also helping to bring into existence a middle class. This group, bridging the gap



INDIAN MOTHER AND CHILD in the city of Quito, the capital of Ecuador



between the wealthy and the poor, is a stabilizing influence politically.

**Transportation.** In no area have greater gains been made during recent years than in transportation.

A boom is now under way in road building. Today, Mexico has more than 12,000 miles of paved highways (as compared to 200 in 1925). Brazil is planning to add 6,500 miles of new roads over the next 5 years. Colombia aims to complete a major highway program by 1960.

Many railroad lines have fallen into a state of disrepair, but attempts are being made to modernize the railways in Argentina and Brazil.

The biggest gains are being made by the extension of air travel. With its rugged mountains and dense jungles, Latin America was once almost impenetrable in certain areas. Today many of these back-country regions are being opened to the outside world.

One development of particular interest to U. S. citizens is the near completion of the Pan-American Highway. When finished, it will run from the border of Texas to Argentina and then cut back into Brazil. It is now complete except for 4 stretches, totaling about 435 miles. Large parts of it are already being used by U. S. tourists to Latin America.

**Bonds with U. S.** Nearly 30% of the United States' overseas purchases come from Latin America. Accounting for 80% of these imports from lands to the south are 4 products: coffee, minerals, petroleum, and sugar.

Latin America takes about 20% of all the products we sell abroad. The chief item is machinery. Other major exports from our country include automobiles and chemical products.

U. S. businessmen have invested more than 7 billion dollars in Latin America. The biggest single attraction for U. S. investors is the oil industry in Venezuela. Other countries where sizable amounts of U. S. dollars are invested include Brazil, Cuba, Chile, and Mexico.

For some years, our government has been helping many of the countries to the south in improving their school and health programs and in boosting farm output. We are also helping to build the Pan-American Highway.

Defense is another area in which the United States and Latin American republics cooperate. Under the Rio Pact of 1947, the Western Hemisphere republics pledged to work together to promote peace and to resist aggressors.

We have entered into military-assistance agreements with 12 Latin American countries. Under this program, we help train troops and supply military equipment. Many Latin American military men have received training at a school run by the U. S. Army in the Canal Zone.

Our leaders feel that by giving moderate military support to these nations, we are making a strong contribution to the defense of the hemisphere.

**Points of friction.** Certain Latin Americans feel we've ignored their part of the world, while devoting our major attention to Europe and Asia. Many of them feel that their countries should have received more aid from us in their development programs, and say that they have been better allies than some of the European and Asian nations we have helped.

To this criticism, our leaders say that we must give aid to regions where it is most urgently needed. They believe that it has been more necessary



THE 20 REPUBLICS of Latin America together are 2½ times larger than our country. Their population of just under 184,000,000 exceeds ours by 10,500,000, and it is growing at a faster rate than the U. S. population.

in Europe and Asia in recent years than in Latin America.

Another constant point of friction concerns trade policy. Latin American leaders say that when the United States needs oil, zinc, lead, and other raw materials badly—as we did during World War II—they are encouraged to produce these items in large quantities. But when our needs are satisfied—Latin Americans complain—we not only stop buying but even raise trade barriers to keep their products from entering the United States.

They point out that President Eisenhower recently called for a reduction of foreign oil shipments into this country, and that a boost in our tariffs on lead and zinc is now under consideration. They say that a reduction in U. S. imports of these products will do great harm to the economies of Venezuela, Mexico, Peru, and Bolivia. The 4 countries depend heavily on one or more of these items for their prosperity.

Certain of our leaders contend that we should not cut down on Latin American sales in the United States, while

others argue that curbs are necessary to protect our own producers against foreign competition based on cheap labor.

**Effects of recession.** Both U. S. and Latin American leaders are troubled by the prospect that the economic slump now being felt in this country will spread throughout the hemisphere.

It is already being felt to some degree in Latin America; if it grows worse, it may have far-reaching, harmful effects. As we have noted, Latin America's political instability has been aggravated by its economic ills. A severe depression might reverse the recent encouraging trend toward political democracy.

Bad times would also create a situation which might enable the communists to gain ground. Native Reds are active in a number of these lands—notably Argentina, Brazil, Cuba, and Mexico. Though they have never made serious headway in Latin America as a whole, an economic slump would produce the conditions under which communism thrives.

Moreover, the Soviet Union is show-

ing more interest in Latin America than she has ever done before. Trade between Russia and certain of these lands has picked up markedly in recent years. Chile is now selling copper to the Soviets, and Colombia is selling coffee. Argentina recently agreed to buy large amounts of machinery from the communist lands of Europe.

Russia has also offered to help some of these lands in their development programs. For example, Moscow is offering oil equipment and technical aid to Brazil. So far the Brazilians have not accepted it, but the offer is the subject of much discussion.

If assistance of a technical nature were all that the Soviet offer involved, U. S. officials would have no strong reason to oppose it. However, it has been demonstrated many times that Russian entry into a country for trade or other economic reasons is a forerunner to attempted political control by the Reds. Therefore, U. S. officials are keeping a close check on Moscow's attempts to extend communist influence into this hemisphere.

—By HOWARD SWEET



# Latin Republics: HOW 22 COUNTRIES OF THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE COME TO BE

## Land and People

**Lofty Peaks, Thick Jungles,  
And Deserts Are Found  
In Big Southern Area**

**M**APS of the world must be revised from time to time. New scientific studies give us knowledge that leads to corrections. Growth of nations means the birth of new towns that need to be recorded. A government sometimes causes map alterations by changing names of cities or regional divisions of a country.

Latin America provides a good example of various changes recently made to give us an up-to-date idea of our globe. Some of the changes are shown in a new map of the southern part of South America, which the National Geographic Society has just issued.

For one example, let us take Argentina. Its new government (see page 1 discussion) has been busy removing Juan Perón's name from Argentine geography ever since his dictatorship was overthrown in 1955. Presidente Perón Province is now Chaco Province. It is only one among dozens of areas with new names.

### New Town

Southernmost town of South America now is Puerto Williams, Chile. It has grown around a new Chilean naval base on Navarino Island, has a population of some 350, and is 680 miles from Antarctica. Formerly, Ushuaia, Argentina, boasted that it was southernmost. It lost the title to Puerto Williams by 28 miles.

Mountains are an outstanding physical feature of Latin America. Mount Aconcagua, in western Argentina, is the highest peak in the Western Hemisphere. According to latest measurements, National Geographic says, its height is 22,834 feet—compared with about 20,270 for Mt. McKinley in Alaska, the highest peak in North America.

The Latin American mountains, stretching southward, are an extension of our Rockies. From the U. S. frontier with Mexico, the Latin chain runs for some 7,000 miles to Cape Horn at the tip of South America.

Called the Sierra Madre in Mexico, the peaks dip low at the Isthmus of Panama. They rise again in South America into the towering Andes. These Andes are at their highest along the border of Argentina and Chile, with, of course, Mount Aconcagua as their towering queen.

The mountains have had a deep effect upon Latin American life. The rugged Andes, in particular, have checked the building of railways and highways to link eastern and western coasts.

Before the airplane, trade was carried on largely by sea. Even now, much heavy material is shipped by boats from one side of the continent to the other. The ships go through the Panama Canal or around Cape Horn. Some journeys by water, between cities that are only 3 hours apart by air travel, may be over a distance of 6,000 miles.

Because of its ability to cut distance, the plane is a major means of transport in the lands south of us, but new

railways and highways are being constructed every year.

Along with its lofty peaks, Latin America also has great rivers. The Amazon of Brazil is often called the "King of Waters." Together with its tributaries, it is about 3,900 miles in length. It is as much as 100 feet deep and, at its mouth, 150 miles wide. It is claimed that the Amazon holds more water between its banks than do 3 great rivers together—our Mississippi, the Nile of Africa, and the Yangtze in China.

From its mouth, the Amazon empties hundreds of thousands of gallons of fresh water into the salty Atlantic. Sailors say they can lower buckets from ships and draw up the fresh water—even while out of sight of land.

On its way to the Atlantic, the Amazon passes through Brazil's tropical forests. Trees in this jungle are often 100 feet high. Tropical vines and shrubs crowd around the trees. In

many parts of the jungle, it is almost impossible to cut a path.

The jungle is a dangerous place. There are pumas, jaguars, and other wild animals. There are many kinds of poisonous snakes. The giant anaconda may be 30 feet long, and the boa constrictor is often nearly 15 feet long. Gaily colored birds are also found in the region.

### Deserts, Too

Latin America has some desert land. The Atacama Desert, which runs for a thousand miles along the northwestern coast of Chile and into Peru, is among the world's driest regions.

Although forests and mineral resources are of great importance (see chart), fertile soil for agriculture is still the chief source of livelihood for the 20 Latin republics. Perhaps the richest farming area lies within a 300-mile radius of Buenos Aires, capital of Argentina. Wheat and corn grow

abundantly, and sometimes there are 2 crops of wheat a season.

The heavy grass of Argentina's pampas, or plains, provides excellent grazing for cattle. Cowboys (Gauchos) tend cattle on ranches of the pampas very much as they do in our West.

Climate of the region varies sharply. Much of Latin America is in the tropics, is hot, and often wet. The lower slopes of mountains are pleasantly cool, but high peaks may be topped with snow. Reaching southward to the tip of South America, one encounters cold temperatures—especially in the lower parts of Chile and Argentina.

The 20 Latin republics are together 2½ times larger than the 48 United States. Largest of the southern lands is Brazil, which is just slightly bigger than our country. Smallest republic is El Salvador, which is the size of Massachusetts.

Three of the southern nations occupy islands of the West Indies. They are

COUNTRY <sup>1</sup>	AREA SQUARE MILES & HEMIS. RANK		POPULATION <sup>3</sup> & HEMIS. RANK		PEOPLE PER SQ. MILE	CITY POP. %	CAPITAL <sup>4</sup> & POP.	MAIN LANGUAGES	EX
ARGENTINA	1,084,000	4	19,674,000	4	18	65	Buenos Aires 5,744,000	Spanish, Italian	Artu
BOLIVIA	424,000	8	3,273,000	14	8	34	La Paz <sup>5</sup> 360,000	Spanish, Aymará	Herná
BRAZIL	3,288,000	2	61,268,000	2	19	36	Rio de Janeiro 2,900,000	Portuguese	Jusceli
CANADA	3,845,774	1	16,887,000	5	4	62	Ottawa 282,000	English, French	John
CHILE	286,396	10	7,119,000	8	25	60	Santiago 1,762,000	Spanish	Car
COLOMBIA	439,500	7	13,227,000	6	30	36	Bogotá 1,125,000	Spanish	milita
COSTA RICA	19,695	19	1,034,000	21	52	40	San José 118,300	Spanish	Ma
CUBA	44,200	15	6,410,000	9	146	57	Havana 1,200,000	Spanish	Fulge
DOM. REPUBLIC <sup>2</sup>	18,700	20	2,698,000	15	142	24	Ciudad Trujillo 241,000	Spanish	Héct
ECUADOR	106,000	12	3,897,000	11	37	30	Quito 237,000	Spanish, Quéchua	Camilo
EL SALVADOR	8,260	22	2,268,000	17	275	37	San Salvador 195,000	Spanish	José
GUATEMALA	42,042	17	3,430,000	12	82	25	Guatemala City 294,000	Spanish, Indian dialects	Migu
HAITI	10,700	21	3,390,000	13	317	12	Port-au-Prince 196,000	French	Franc
HONDURAS	43,250	16	1,739,000	18	40	31	Tegucigalpa 100,000	Spanish	Ran
MEXICO	760,373	5	32,000,000	3	42	43	Mexico City 4,460,000	Spanish, Nahuatl	Ac
NICARAGUA	57,100	14	1,288,000	20	23	35	Managua 142,000	Spanish	Lui
PANAMA	28,575	18	960,000	22	33	36	Panama City 200,000	Spanish	de la
PARAGUAY	157,047	11	1,601,000	19	10	35	Asunción 250,000	Spanish, Guaraní	Alfre
PERU	514,059	6	9,923,000	7	19	20	Lima 1,282,000	Spanish, Quéchua	Ma
UNITED STATES	3,022,387	3	173,500,000	1	57	64	Washington, D. C. 2,000,000	English	Dwight
URUGUAY	72,172	13	2,668,000	16	37	41	Montevideo 900,000	Spanish	Car
VENEZUELA	352,143	9	6,130,000	10	17	54	Caracas 1,102,000	Spanish	Wolfga

<sup>1</sup> Independent nations of the Americas. The new West Indies federation is not included, since it remains under some degree of British supervision.

<sup>2</sup> Full name of this country is the "Dominican Republic."

<sup>3</sup> Population figures from a new report by Pan American Union columns is from our 1957 "World of Facts" chart, or from still m

<sup>4</sup> Where possible, population is for metropolitan areas—main

# COMPARE IN GEOGRAPHY, INDUSTRY, GOVERNMENT, AND LIVING CONDITIONS

CHIEF EXECUTIVE	INCOME Average Per Person <sup>5</sup>	IMPORTANT PRODUCTS	EXPORTS % to U. S.	IMPORTS % from U. S.	PEOPLE PER			ILLITERACY %	LIFE SPAN Average	MAJOR SPORTS	COUNTRY
Frondizi <sup>6</sup>	\$460	meat, hides, wool, grain, cattle	12	20	59	17	4	10	64	soccer, racing, polo, golf	ARGENTINA
Siles Zuazo	85	tin, silver, tungsten, zinc, rubber	60	38	490	265	28	60	45	soccer, fishing	BOLIVIA
Neto Kubitschek	220	coffee, cacao, cotton, sugar, cattle	50	29	175	75	14	50	53	soccer, swimming, track & field	BRAZIL
Diefenbaker	1,269	wheat, lumber, paper, aluminum, vehicles	59	73	6	4	2	almost none	69	ice hockey, skiing, lacrosse	CANADA
Albano Ibañez	330	copper, nitrates, wool, iodine, wheat	45	45	148	45	10	20	52	soccer, tennis, basketball	CHILE
Governmental Committee	270	coffee, oil, bananas, emeralds	71	62	165	80	17	37	45	soccer, baseball, basketball	COLOMBIA
Ulate Echandi <sup>6</sup>	150	coffee, bananas, cacao, gold, silver	48	54	106	82	24	20	56	soccer, baseball, basketball	COSTA RICA
Primo Batista	320	sugar, tobacco, molasses	65	75	50	34	5	22	50	baseball, jai alai, soccer	CUBA
Dr. B. Trujillo	205	sugar, coffee, cacao	47	66	380	224	36	57	45	baseball, tennis	DOM. REPUBLIC
Ponce Enriquez	150	bananas, coffee, cacao, straw hats, balsa	60	52	800	291	25	43	52	soccer, tennis, basketball	ECUADOR
Maria Lemus	200	coffee, cotton, corn, rice, sugar	45	53	185	219	35	57	51	soccer, basketball, swimming	EL SALVADOR
Ydígoras Fuentes	185	coffee, bananas, corn, chicle, lumber, cotton	70	69	220	302	27	70	44	soccer, basketball, swimming	GUATEMALA
St. Duvalier	70	coffee, sugar, sisal, cacao, bananas	34	62	650	769	200	90	33	soccer, basketball	HAITI
Amador Villeda Morales	160	bananas, coffee, corn, lumber, silver	63	68	500	225	70	60	45	soccer, basketball, swimming	HONDURAS
Adolfo Ruiz Cortines	210	cotton, coffee, metals, grain, oil	73	78	100	84	9	21	50	baseball, soccer, basketball	MEXICO
León Somoza	145	cotton, gold, lumber, coffee, corn	39	63	320	315	35	60	45	baseball, soccer, basketball	NICARAGUA
Ernesto Guardia, Jr.	250	bananas, shrimp, cacao, tobacco, cattle	89	60	64	47	7	28	52	baseball, swimming	PANAMA
Alfredo Stroessner	130	cotton, cattle, timber, quebracho	18	13	415	267	17	60	50	soccer, basketball	PARAGUAY
Manuel Prado	110	cotton, sugar, oil, copper, livestock	37	50	140	150	16	58	45	soccer, basketball, track & field	PERU
Dwight D. Eisenhower	2,084	grain, cotton, meat, steel, machinery, fuel	..	..	3	3	1	almost none	70	baseball, basketball, football	UNITED STATES
Carlos Fischer	316	sheep, cattle, textiles, grain	12	16	50	23	6	15	56	soccer, swimming	URUGUAY
Carlos Lleras	600	oil, iron, coffee, cacao, sugar	38	59	36	58	16	53	50	baseball, soccer, basketball	VENEZUELA

on. Material in other  
more recent sources.  
in cities plus suburbs.

<sup>5</sup> Most governmental work is done at La Paz, but Sucre (40,000) is "official capital."

<sup>6</sup> To take office in May.

<sup>7</sup> Head of a committee that controls the government.

<sup>8</sup> Total national income divided by population. Each figure, given in terms of U.S. dollars, represents income before payment of taxes. The statistics given in this column are latest available estimates on annual basis.

Cuba, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic. Ten are on the South American continent. They are Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

Six republics take up the narrow region known as Central America. They are Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama. Mexico adjoins us on the North American continent.

Four main groups of people live in the southern lands. Indians, who are native to the region, make up one large group. They are most numerous in mountainous areas of Mexico, Bolivia, Guatemala, Ecuador, and Peru.

A second group consists of Negroes, whose ancestors were brought from Africa as slaves. Many live in Haiti (Latin America's only Negro republic), in Panama, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and Venezuela.

A third group takes in people of European ancestry. Many are descendants of early settlers from Spain and Portugal. There are also a growing number of new settlers from Italy, Germany, and other lands—many of whom have become residents of Latin America in the past 20 years. Among countries with large populations of European origin are Argentina, Uruguay, Chile, Brazil, as well as Costa Rica.

A fourth group is formed by people of mixed race. They are called *mestizos*. Their number is large especially in Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Colombia, Venezuela, Paraguay, Costa Rica, Brazil, Bolivia, and Mexico.

## Growing Population

Population of all the Latin American republics combined totals just under 184,000,000, and is increasing at a faster rate than ours. U. S. population now is 173,500,000.

Living customs and dress differ widely in the vast southern region. Of all the different groups, the Indians are probably the most colorful.

Along the rough roads of mountainous Peru, you may meet Indian women walking to town with potatoes or other vegetables for sale in the markets. They wear big felt hats with wide brims, scarves around their necks, shawls in rich colors, heavy skirts, and shoes that seem to be a cross between moccasins and sandals.

Plodding burros carry the Peruvian women's produce. On the way to town, there will be a stop to water the burros at a stream. For themselves, the women may draw water from a spring into earthen pitchers. Lunch may be made from potatoes, corn, and beans, which are typical Indian foods.

Indian homes may be of wooden poles with thatched roofs, as in Colombia. Or they may be of heavy *adobe* (clay dried into brick by the sun),

with tile roofs, as in Mexico. Floors in Indian houses generally are of hard-packed dirt.

In big agricultural regions, such as those of Argentina, workers of European descent may live in small huts, and eat mainly vegetables, some meat, and a little fruit. Owners of the big ranches have comfortable homes.

In coffee-growing countries such as Brazil, men and women in light clothing pick the coffee beans, sort them by hand, and then dry them on the ground. Workers picking, packing, and loading bananas in the warm Central American lands may wear trunks or trousers and loose-fitting shirts.

With all its quaint color, Latin America also has a highly modern side. In cities, many people live as we do in up-to-date apartments and homes.

A number of the cities have fine universities. The one in Mexico City is among the best in the Western Hemisphere. —By TOM HAWKINS



# Historical Background

## Latin Lands Had Varied, Colorful Beginnings

**L**ONG before white men came to the Western Hemisphere, Latin America supported great Indian civilizations. Centered in Peru was the powerful Inca empire. In Central America and southern Mexico were the Mayas, builders of massive structures whose ruins are today regarded with awe.

The Toltecs had a highly organized society in Mexico between 700 and 1100 A.D. After this civilization crumbled, it was followed by the Aztec, which was still in existence when European explorers came to America.

Not long after Columbus discovered the New World in 1492, explorers and adventurers conquered the Indians and seized large sections of territory for Spain and other European powers. Foremost among the Spanish conquerors were Francisco Pizarro, who defeated the Incas of Peru, and Hernando Cortes, who crushed the Aztecs in what is now Mexico. After 1500,

It was in 1822 that the United States began recognizing her new southern neighbors as independent countries. In the following year, 1823, U. S. President James Monroe and Secretary of State John Quincy Adams set forth the famous Monroe Doctrine. Through it, they warned all the governments of Europe against seeking control over any of the new western nations.

The Monroe Doctrine did not get much attention during the period immediately following its announcement, but it acquired great importance later. Our government took a firm stand in 1865, for instance, when France was trying to set up a Mexican empire.

### Monroe Doctrine

Our attitude led the French to withdraw their troops from Mexico. The Austrian prince they had made Emperor—Maximilian—was left without support. He was captured and killed by Mexican forces.

In the early 1900's, a new idea was added to the Monroe Doctrine. President Theodore Roosevelt noted that turmoil in Latin American states often tempted European countries to violate the Doctrine and meddle in Western Hemisphere affairs. To lessen the danger of European intervention, he concluded, *the United States itself* might need to keep order—temporarily—in Latin American nations whose governments had broken down.

Under this policy, our government assumed the job of collecting customs revenues for the Dominican Republic in the early 1900's, and U. S. Marines occupied that country from 1916 to 1924. We had Marines in Haiti from 1915 to 1934, and officials from the United States controlled many of the Haitian government's activities during part of that period.

U. S. Marines were stationed in Nicaragua nearly all the time from 1912 to 1933. Under a special agreement with Cuba, we sent troops to cope with some uprisings in that nation. We sent a military expedition to Mexico in 1916-17.

The U. S. actions caused deep resentment in Latin America. Our southern neighbors accused us of using our troops to protect American business interests in their lands.

During the 1920's and 1930's, our nation changed its attitude. Under the "Good Neighbor Policy" (a phrase popularized by Presidents Hoover and Franklin Roosevelt), we launched genuine efforts to win friends in the Western Hemisphere.

We gave up the practice of sending U. S. troops to keep order in other American countries. In 1933, President Roosevelt declared, "The definite policy of the United States from now on is one opposed to armed intervention."

Today, instead of trying to take it upon ourselves to police and protect the Western Hemisphere, we accept the idea of promoting peace and security through *cooperation with the other countries of the Americas*.

For this purpose, we helped establish the 21-member Organization of American States (OAS) in 1948. The Pan American Union, an association of Western Hemisphere countries that was formed in 1890, now serves as the central agency of the OAS. It has headquarters in Washington, D. C.



STATUE of Simón Bolívar, known to Latin Americans as "The Liberator," stands near Constitution Hall (shown at right) in Washington, D. C.

nearly all the present-day Latin American lands became colonial territories of Spain.

The main exception was Brazil, which developed under Portuguese rule. Uruguay was controlled by Portugal for a time, but was taken by Spain in the 1700's. Haiti and the Dominican Republic were successively under Spain and France.

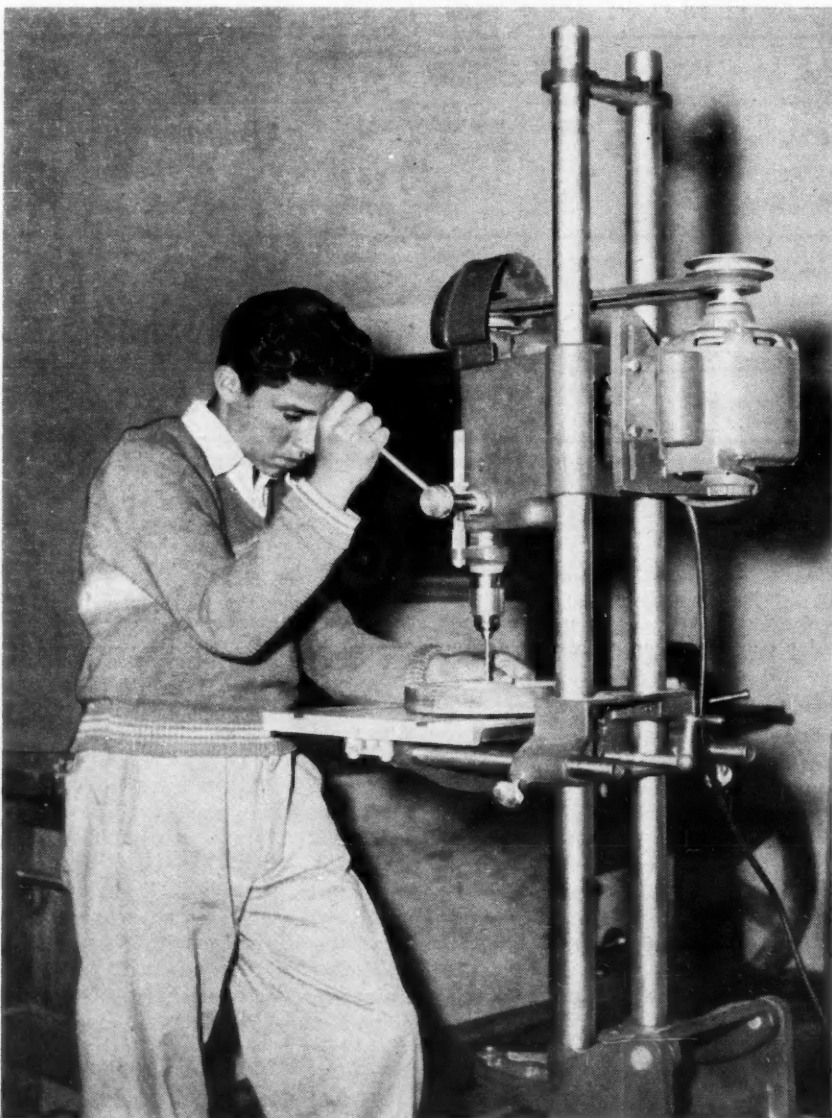
Not long after our own country obtained its freedom from Britain, a great independence movement swept through Latin America. Some of the heroes of this drive were Simón Bolívar, who helped liberate the northwestern and central parts of South America; José de San Martín, who crossed the Andes from Argentina and attacked the Spaniards on South America's west coast; Bernardo O'Higgins, the "George Washington of Chile"; and the priest, Miguel Hidalgo, who died in the struggle for Mexican independence.

Most of the Latin American countries won their freedom from European powers in the early 1800's. Cuba, however, remained a Spanish territory until 1898.



RICHARD HARRINGTON

**GIRL OF PERU.** Her country has high mountains and deep valleys, and a coast that runs for 1,400 miles along the Pacific Ocean. Once part of the ancient Incan empire, it is more than 3 times as large as California. Peru, conquered by Spain in the 1500's, won independence by rising in rebellion in the 1820's.



**VOCATIONAL STUDENT** in Bolivia's capital, La Paz. Bolivia and other Latin American nations are striving to train additional workers in the use of industrial machines, so that more goods can be turned out for consumers.



# The Story of the Week

## Nuclear Tests

Since Russia announced that she would halt further nuclear tests if our nation followed the same policy, Americans have been divided over what we should do. *On one side it is argued:*

"The Soviets have just concluded a series of atomic-hydrogen blasts. It takes a long time to prepare for these experiments, and the Reds are now trying to win world favor and throw us off guard by pretending that they will quit additional testing if we do. They know that we have been planning for months to try out some of our newly developed nuclear weapons this spring and summer.

"We would be foolish indeed to fall into their trap. Even if we don't go through with our testing plans, they will find some excuse to continue theirs when they are again ready to do some experimenting.

"Our government should keep emphasizing this fact to the world: For years, we have urged Russia to join us in a genuine disarmament program. We have repeatedly said that, if such a program were adopted, we would be willing for UN inspectors to check continuously to see that we lived up to our end of the bargain if Russia would do likewise.

"Soviet leaders have never agreed to do this. What is the reason? If they are sincere in wanting disarmament, why won't they pay the same price we're willing to? How can we and other free nations possibly trust the Russians if they will not let inspectors into their country?

"The answer must be that the Reds have no intention of really disarming, and are determined to hide that fact from the rest of the world. We should combat their phony 'peace' propaganda by constantly pointing out their refusal to permit the kind of inspection essential for any true disarmament program."

*Here is the other side of the argument:*

"There's no question that Russia is not to be trusted, and that we must watch her every move. But we could call her bluff on stopping nuclear tests without too great a risk. It is generally agreed that no big atomic or hydrogen explosion can take place in any country without other governments knowing about it. So we can check on whether the Soviet leaders keep their word.

"From the military standpoint, it may seem unwise to call off our forthcoming nuclear experiments after so much time has been spent in planning for them. But from the standpoint of world opinion, we would gain a real victory by doing so.

"Too many eminent scientists believe that nuclear blasts are harmful to the world for us to ignore their warnings. It is true that other scientists are not fearful; nevertheless, since expert opinion is divided, we should not take a chance on continuing to do something that may be very dangerous.

"We cannot let Russia keep on winning one battle after another on the propaganda front. We must begin calling her bluff whenever possible.

Otherwise, we'll find ourselves without much world support.

"If our government is unwilling to call off the series of nuclear tests already planned, the least it can do is to promise to make these tests the last if Russia does not conduct any more. It would be better, however, if we didn't even go through with our present plans, for they may give Soviet leaders the excuse they want to renew their testing. They can say we forced them to do so."

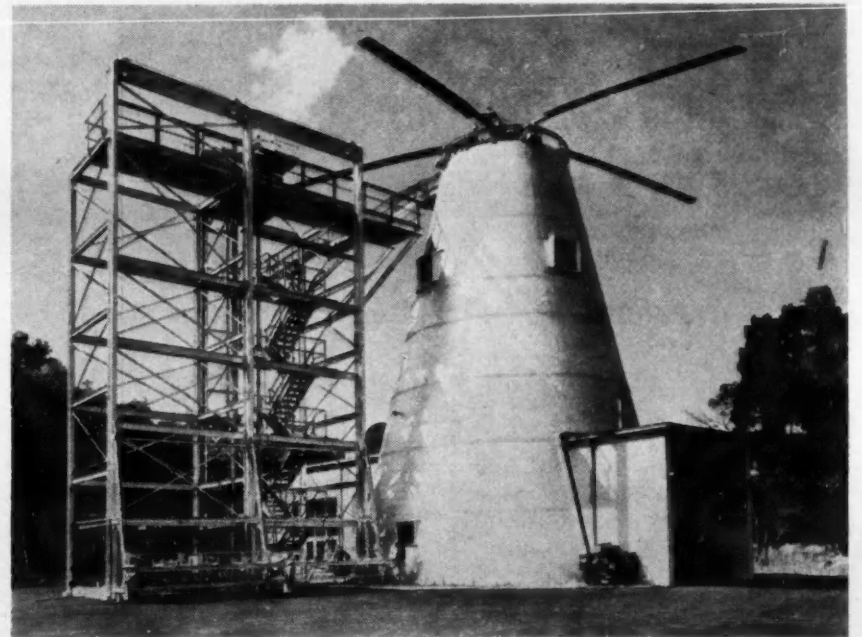
Washington officials have been weighing these opposing points of view, and important announcements on our policy may be made before this paper reaches its readers.

## Unemployment Aid

Congress is now going over a White House proposal for an emergency extension of state payments to jobless persons whose benefits are running out, or already have ended, under the unemployment compensation program. The President's plan would extend jobless payments for a 50% longer time than they are paid under existing plans. (Some Democrats are seeking to prolong the period even more than this.) Uncle Sam would lend funds to states for the purpose of making the extra payments.

The states and the federal government work as partners in running the unemployment compensation programs. Jobless payments are made by the states out of funds that come from a special tax paid by employers. (In a few states, workers also pay part of this tax.) The federal government acts as supervisor of the programs, though it gives the states a good deal of freedom in carrying out unemployment benefit plans.

The amount an unemployed worker gets in benefits depends largely on his previous earnings. Average payments are now close to \$30 a week, though some states pay less than this amount and others pay more. Certain states



**WHIRLYBIRD AID.** Resembling a windmill, this stand is for testing helicopter rotor blades at United Aircraft's Sikorsky Division in Stratford, Connecticut. Elevators (left) are used for carrying workers and equipment to the top of the stand. Auxiliary room (rear) houses power generator and motor.

make jobless payments for not more than 18 weeks, while others continue them for 26 weeks or longer.

When the time limit for unemployment benefits runs out, jobless workers without savings must seek further help from state or local welfare agencies.

Last month, over 5,000,000 Americans were without jobs. More than 3,000,000 of these workers were receiving jobless benefits under the unemployment compensation programs. The U. S. Department of Labor estimates that about 2,000,000 of these individuals will soon run out of benefits unless changes are made in the existing jobless pay plans.

## To the Summit?

The western nations have asked the Soviets for a meeting of diplomatic officials from communist and free lands in Moscow later this month. The diplomats would make arrangements for talks by Soviet and western foreign

affairs chiefs, who would then arrange for a "summit" conference of the highest leaders and decide what issues are to be discussed at such a meeting.

The western proposal once again offers Russia an opportunity to prove her sincerity in calling for talks to work for world peace.

## More Homes and Jobs

It is estimated that the new housing measure, signed by President Eisenhower earlier this month, will encourage the building of 200,000 new homes and provide some 500,000 additional jobs a year. Though the President criticized certain provisions of the Democratic-sponsored housing bill, he approved it as a step to fight unemployment and improve business conditions.

Briefly, the new housing law increases the funds Uncle Sam makes available to home buyers, including special loans to veterans, by nearly 2 billion dollars. It also reduces the down payments on home loans made by private banks but insured by the federal government.

## In a Nutshell

Congressmen who want the government to keep crop prices from dropping below last year's levels say they will make new efforts to get their proposal enacted into law. President Eisenhower vetoed the farm bill after Congress passed it last month.

The White House says the measure would encourage farmers to continue producing more crops than they can sell on the market, thus causing overproduction of farm items. Supporters of the measure say it is needed to prevent possible serious drops in farm incomes.

To pass a measure over the President's veto, backers of the defeated bill must get the support of two-thirds of the legislators in both the Senate and the House.

John Diefenbaker, leader of the Progressive Conservative Party in Canada, now has firm control over his nation's affairs. After winning only

(Concluded on page 8)



**GAMAL ABDEL NASSER** of Egypt addressing Syrian troops. Nasser is now President of both Egypt and Syria, which recently formed a United Arab Republic. A third Arab land, Yemen, remains a monarchy but is associated with the new republic. Nasser, who is often critical of the United States, apparently hopes to make himself a powerful leader of all Arab lands in the Middle East.





JAPANESE think that this new office building in their capital, Tokyo, may have more space than any other in the Far East. Nine stories high, it sprawls along an entire block. It will be used by 26 Japanese business firms with a combined working force of 10,000 people. It cost over \$17,000,000 and took 2 years to build. Japan avoids skyscrapers because of earthquake dangers.

## The Story of the Week

(Concluded from page 7)

a shaky hold on the Canadian government last June, Diefenbaker and his party called new elections for March 31, and won by a landslide.

President Eisenhower has called for a major change in the nation's defense organization. Under his plan, the Defense Secretary, who is now Neil McElroy, would have almost complete authority over military manpower, expenditures, weapons, and strategy.

Because the White House proposal would sharply reduce the authority of top military officers over their own branches of the armed forces, a bitter debate is expected in Congress.

### Russia's Khrushchev

Joseph Stalin (Russia's ruler from the 1920's until his death in 1953) committed many crimes against the Soviet people. He murdered all those who dared oppose his will. His kind of one-man rule is a thing of the past for Russia.

So spoke Nikita Khrushchev just 2 years ago when he surprised the world by denouncing the late Stalin. Now the same Khrushchev has apparently succeeded in becoming as powerful a dictator as Stalin was. Khrushchev has recently assumed the post of Soviet Premier in addition to continuing as boss of the all-powerful Communist Party in Russia. For a while after Stalin's death, that country was ruled by a committee, but Khrushchev has finally removed all his competitors from high office.

It is too early to tell what changes, if any, the most recent shake-up in Moscow will bring to Russia's official policies at home and abroad.

### Come to the Fair

Visitors from the United States, Latin America, Asia, and other parts of the globe are on their way to Brussels, Belgium. They are among the first of an estimated 35,000,000 people who are expected to visit the Brussels World's Fair this year. The fair opens on Thursday, April 17, and will run until next October.

The theme of the Brussels Fair is the Atomium, a structure more than 30 stories high made up of steel spheres representing the atom. Some of the spheres in the structure contain exhibits showing how atomic energy is used for the benefit of mankind.

The fair grounds will cover 500 acres of land on the edge of Brussels. Huge halls have been built by many nations to house their exhibits.

American visitors will take pride in our country's huge circular hall of plastic and gold-colored steel. It is surrounded by beautiful gardens and trees. Exhibits there will show how the people in the United States live, work, and play.

### Out into Space

One of the issues facing congressmen this week, after returning to

Capitol Hill from a 10-day Easter recess, is this: What kind of space program should Uncle Sam undertake and how much money is needed to carry it out?

Shortly after the U. S. Army launched our third earth satellite—Explorer III—last month, President Eisenhower asked Congress to establish a special agency to direct non-military space research programs. The new office would cooperate closely with the Advance Research Projects Agency (ARPA) which was set up within the Defense Department last February.

At the same time, the White House asked scientists to develop, as soon as possible, rockets capable of reaching the moon. Some rocket experts predict that we might hit the moon with an instrument-carrying object within a year.

### Pronunciations

Adolfo Ruiz Cortines—ā-daw'l'fō rwēs core-tē'nēs

Alfredo Stroessner—āl-frā'dō strōs'ner

Arturo Frondizi—ār-too'rō frōn-dē'sī

Camilo Ponce Enriquez—kā-mē'lō pawn'sē ēn-rē'kēs

Carlos Fischer—kār'lōs fish'er

Carlos Ibañez—kār'lōs ē-bān'yās

Ernesto de la Guardia—ēr-nēs'tō dā lā gwār'dē-ā

Fidel Castro—fē-dē'l' kās'trō

Francois Duvalier—frān-swā dōō-vāl-yā

Fulgencio Batista—fool-hen'see-o bātēs'tā

Héctor Trujillo—ēk'tawr trōō-hē'yō

Hernán Siles Zuazo—ēr-nān' sē'lēs zwā'zō

José de San Martín—hō-zā' dā sān mār'tēn

José María Lemus—hō-zā' mā-rē'ā lē-mus

Juan Perón—hwān pē-rawn'

Juscelino Kubitschek—hōō'sē-lē'nō kōō-pēt'shēk

Luis Somoza—lwēs sō-mō'sā

Mannuel Prado—mā-nwē'l' prā'dō

Marcos Pérez Jiménez—mār'kōs pēr'ēz hē-mā'nēs

Mario Echandi—mā'rī-ō ā-chān'dī

Miguel Hidalgo—mē-gē'l' ē-dāl'gō

Miguel Ydigoras Fuentes—mē-gē'l' ē-dē'-gō-rās fwēn'tās

Nikita Khrushchev—nyī-kē'tuh krōōsh-chawf

Ramon Villeda Morales—rā-mawn' vil-yā'dā mō-rā'lās

Simón Bolívar—sē-mōn' bō-lē'vār

Wolfgang Larrazabal—wolf'gāng lā'rā-zā'bāl

(Geographic names in this issue are pronounced in any good dictionary.)

## News Quiz

### Latin America

1. What event is observed each year on the 14th of April?
2. Describe the political situation in Cuba.
3. Name several other Latin American countries that have experienced political turmoil over the past year or so.
4. What are the underlying reasons for political instability in this region?
5. Name several countries where the outlook for stable government is improving.
6. Describe the industrial and agricultural progress being made in Latin America.
7. What gains have been made in transportation during recent years?
8. How is trade a bond between our nation and the lands to the south?
9. What other ties exist between the United States and the Latin American republics?
10. Describe the main points of friction between our country and our southern neighbors.
11. What political results might a severe economic depression have in Latin America?
12. How have the Andes Mountains had a big effect upon transportation in Latin America?
13. Briefly tell some of the interesting features of the Amazon River.
14. Describe the climate in various regions of Latin America.
15. List the 4 main groups of people that make up most of the area's population.
16. Name at least 2 Indian groups that had well-established civilizations before European explorers discovered the Americas.
17. When was the Monroe Doctrine drawn up, and what was its purpose?
18. Why were U. S. troops sent to certain Latin American lands during the early 1900's?
19. When and why was the "Good Neighbor Policy" adopted?

### Discussion

1. In your opinion, what is Latin America's most urgent problem? Explain.
2. Do you think the United States is doing all it can and should do to promote good trade relations with Latin America? Give reasons for your answer.
3. Do you or do you not agree with those Latin Americans who think that the United States gives too little attention to their areas as compared to what we give to Europe and Asia? Elaborate.

### Miscellaneous

1. Summarize the 2 points of view on halting nuclear tests. Which do you support, and why?
2. What are some expected results of a new housing measure recently passed by Congress and signed by President Eisenhower?
3. Briefly describe the system of benefit payments to jobless workers. What changes are being proposed?
4. How much power does Nikita Khrushchev now possess in Russia? Explain.
5. What proposals have western leaders made to Russia with respect to a Soviet-western meeting of top leaders?
6. The President recently vetoed a bill passed by Congress. What did it provide and how might it still become law?

### Solution to March 31 Puzzle

HORIZONTAL: Wisconsin. VERTICAL: 1. Warsaw; 2. tariff; 3. dikes; 4. cars; 5. Tokyo; 6. cotton; 7. Kishi; 8. ships; 9. Holland.

### Next Week's Articles

Unless unforeseen developments arise, the main articles next week will deal with (1) racial problems and our schools, and (2) Israel.

## THE LIGHTER SIDE

When the examination was over, the teacher told her pupils to write a pledge that they had neither received nor given any help. One youth, who suffered through the test, wrote:

"I didn't receive help, and goodness knows I couldn't give any."

The bus was crowded when the young lady got on and a soldier attempted to rise. She pushed him back gently and he tried to rise once more.

"No, no, thank you," she murmured, pushing him back again.

"Please let me get up lady," he protested. "I'm 2 blocks past my stop now."

"Long distance operator?"

"Yes."

"Please call Shamokawa, Washington, and ask for . . ."

"Will you please spell that?" interrupted the operator.

"Miss, if I could spell it, I'd write a letter."

One supervisor was telling another, "When I walk through the typist section I feel like a piece of uranium approaching a whole battery of geiger counters. . . ."

"What do you mean?" the other man asked.

"The closer I come, the faster they click."

A motorist, following a taillight in a dense fog, crashed into the car ahead of him when it stopped very fast. "Why didn't you let me know you were going to stop," he yelled.

"Why should I?" came a voice. "I'm in my own garage."



"Your son has been exceptionally well behaved this afternoon."